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MSU Police receive false suicide report

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BY JENNIFER SEWELL
NEWS EDITOR

A call made to campus police Friday that at first seemed to be a warning about a potential suicide, turned out to be a student disgruntled over an Internet relationship, MSU Police Chief Douglas Brown said.

A female non-student called campus police Friday at 12:36 p.m. and told officers her boyfriend, a 22-year-old student living in Cooper Hall, was making suicide threats, according to police reports.

Brown said, anticipating a possible suicide, he sent officers to Cooper Hall at 12:40 p.m. and contacted crisis counseling.

When the officers arrived in the lobby of Cooper Hall, the student's roommate said his roommate was in class, Brown said.

The roommate also told officers the unidentified female was not a roommate's girlfriend, but was an Internet chat-room partner. The two had been chatting since last fall, Brown said.

Brown said the student told police that last Thursday evening and Friday morning, he did not want to communicate online with the girl.

He said he was short with her and said off-hand phrases to her online, Brown said.

Based upon the roommate's statement, Brown said he canceled the counseling request.

Brown said officers contacted the student in his classroom Friday and confirmed he was level-headed, he did not have a girlfriend and he was not suicidal.

Brown said the student was shocked when

contacted by Public Safety.

He said the student and the female had participated in instant messaging and there is no record of conversations on Thursday or Friday.

Brown said a Public Safety officer is attempting to contact the unidentified girl in the 859 area code region.

Brown said this is the second incident of Internet harassment that has been reported this semester.

"We usually receive more phone-harassment communication complaints than online harassment," Brown said.

Brown said this is the biggest crime problem on campus but harassment ranks a close second.

According to police reports, nine harassment complaints were filed in the month of

February. The complaints included mail and phone harassments.

Brown said nine out of 10 cases of harassment cases ended with the first complaint.

He said there must be a recurrence of harassment and evidence must be presented before the next step of prosecution takes place.

The student anonymous phone call or the harassment log presents Public Safety with the details and evidence regarding containing harassment calls.

Date of call, time of call, who answered the phone, nature of call, description of call, background noise and length of call are listed on the call sheet.

Brown said the problem usually vanishes but Public Safety is willing to help if the harassment persists.

Ag department chair skeptical about campus hemp research

BY CARLA REDDEN
MANAGING EDITOR

Pending the passage of House Bill 100 by the Kentucky Senate, industrial hemp research will begin at selected state universities in an effort to replace tobacco as a cash crop.

The bill was passed by the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on Feb. 22.

The bill was passed over on both Monday and Tuesday and retained in the Orders of the Day.

The provisions of the bill allow state universities to grow and research industrial hemp under stringent regulations.

Legislators opposed to the production of industrial hemp say the

substance is too closely related to marijuana, a plant that contains three times as much of mind-altering substance tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, which is also found in hemp.

Hemp, a fibrous plant, can be used to make rope, clothing and various other products.

During World War II, Kentuckians maintained a large market for hemp, which was used to make rope.

Rep. Mike Denham, D-Maryville, one of the sponsors of the bill, said since Kentucky has been hit tremendously hard by the loss of tobacco revenues, legislators are looking for alternatives crops to replace tobacco.

Denham said the bill, if approved, would encompass agronomy research to study the economic value, environmental benefits and the feasibility of attracting funding for industrial hemp.

"The study will, generally, study effects and benefits of growing industrial hemp to see what kinds of problems are potentially there and to see if it is an economically viable crop," Denham said.

He said if the study reports industrial hemp production favorably and legislators can agree, then a full-blown study can support an effort to help change federal laws.

See HEMP page 2

Trail Blazer ad manager wins four firsts at KIPA convention

Trail Blazer Advertising Manager Jeremy Cox garnered four first place awards last week in competition at the Kentucky Intercollegiate Press Association Convention.

Cox was the only student newspaper staffer to finish first in all four

category in the newspaper advertising section of the competition.

His wins were in Advertising Design, among 19 entries; House Ad, 15 entries; Advertising Art, six entries; and Advertising campaign, eight entries.

Cox also won a third place award for Informational Graphic in the news section of the competition.

Student news, advertising and layout entries from 17 state colleges and universities were sent three weeks ago and were then distributed and judged by professionals around the state. Awards are announced at the annual convention.

College newspaper staffers compete in two divisions, based on enrollment.

The Trail Blazer competes in Division A against The University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, Northern Kentucky University, Western Kentucky University, Eastern Kentucky University and Murray State University.

Trail Blazer staffers also earned awards in Editorial Writing, Editorial Page, Editorial Cartoon, Analysis and Special Reports, Sports Reporting and Front Page Layout.

Individual winners included Matt Alay, Emily Moses, Jennifer Brown, Sunny Kramer, and Cindy Muncy. Some awards are designated as whole staff awards for spring and fall newspaper staffs.

SGA instituting online voting

Increase in student voter turnout is expected

BY SARAH CLARK
STAFF WRITER

The Student Government Association is turning to online voting in an effort to make voting in SGA elections easier and more accessible to students.

SGA President Teresa Johnson said online voting has been discussed by SGA since last fall.

Online voting was designed to increase the availability of elections to students, Johnson said she hopes

the easier access will help boost voter participation.

The last SGA election was held in ADUC and only drew 192 votes, Johnson said.

The new voting system will offer new options that won't exclude or inconvenience people, Johnson said.

Johnson said, with on-campus computer labs having Internet access, and students having Internet on personal computers in their dorm rooms, online voting should be a convenience to all.

MSU Director of Computer Applications Andrea Cornett said on-line voting will also be an advantage to extended campus students and commuter students who aren't always on campus.

Cornett said, "This will give students living off-campus the ability to have

a voice, along with resident students."

Johnson said there are always concerns with hackers and people wanting to tamper with votes, but there will be a backup feature for the on-line voting that will not allow students to cast more than one vote.

Cornett said Information Technology is currently programming for student activities to enter candidate information, while web programming is scheduled to commence this week.

Eastern Kentucky University last fall initiated an online voting system for SGA elections.

EKU Web Developer Kerri Clark said voter turnout for that election more than doubled the usual turnout.

Clark said the EKV system ran See SGA page 2



Jeremy Cox

year's KIPA convention, held Mar. 1-3 at Eastern Kentucky University. Cox, a senior from Florence, Ky., won first place in all but one

Bills stalled in Ky. General Assembly

BY MATT ALLEY
EDITOR

Nearly 300 bills still await action in the legislature, but Kentucky lawmakers say many might not see the light of day to senate and house floors.

Friday will be the final day for lawmakers to discuss pending bills. After this week, bills that have not been reviewed will no longer have a chance of being voted on.

During this final week, lawmakers will iron out the differences between House and Senate versions of bills approved by the General

Assembly.

The legislature is then scheduled to adjourn until March 22, when it will have a day to consider overriding any vetoes cast by Gov. Paul Patton.

The House has passed 153 bills and 43 resolutions, while the Senate has approved 78 bills and 11 resolutions - a total of 285 pieces of legislation.

Each chamber has been delaying votes on the other chamber's bills.

To some extent, that's normal, said Sen. David Boswell, D-Sorgho. "Both bodies typically wait until the

last minute to take up the other's bills," Sorgho said.

Sorgho said this waiting process creates a three-way logjam.

Rep. Jim Gooch, D-Providence, said he believes bills will be held hostage until the very end and then "horse trading" practices will decide what gets passed.

"I believe that both chambers will hold bills hostage until the very end, for what ever reasons they see fit," Gooch said.

Gooch said he is afraid the legislation to promote cleanup and re-use of contaminated industrial land may be

a victim of the bill hostage process.

"I think this is the most needed type of legislation," he said.

Gooch is concerned about the chances of legislation giving economic development incentives to coal companies to entice them to open more mines in Kentucky.

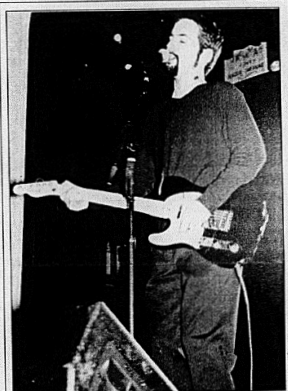
"I doubt that very many bills pass this session," he said.

"That's OK because I view this short session more as a vehicle to correct problems in bills passed during last session and to deal with administrative regulations and real emergencies." Sen. Ray Jones II, D-Pikeville,

is participating in his first General Assembly.

"Time is running out," Jones said. "But that doesn't mean we will leave Frankfort without accomplishing anything. Many of last year's major bills were adopted on the final day. We can still create a sizable legacy this year if the will to do so is there."

After the General Assembly ended last year, nearly 300 pieces of legislation were left up to Gov. Patton to decide upon with absolute vetoing power.



Photos by Andrew Hale

Stephen Mark Pasch, lead-singer of Three Crosses, performed in concert Friday in Button Auditorium. The concert was held as part of the band's Illumination Tour 2000-2001

Shower stalls to be installed in three dorms

BY ERIC STEWART
STAFF WRITER

Shower stalls will be installed in three resident halls during spring break.

Stalls are scheduled to be installed in Alumni Tower, Cooper and Wilson Halls.

Physical Plant Director Joe Plank said the project is scheduled during spring break to cause less disruption for students.

If the project fails to be completed during spring break, Plank said another time will be scheduled that will cause as little interference as possible.

Dennis McKay, resident hall area coordinator, said student privacy is important and there have been several complaints from students concerning the issue. He said he hopes this alleviates those complaints.

Cooper Hall resident Matt Riddle was pleased to hear about the installations.

"I think it is a great idea. I'm tired of sharing the stalls with everyone," Kyle Sammons, an Alumni Tower resident, said he doesn't really care but likes the idea.

See STALLS page 2

HEMP, from front

Last year, a lack of interest within the Senate led to the failure of a similar bill.

Denham said the bill proposed last year did not include the cooperation of law enforcement.

"This bill does include law enforcement as part of the study, more people are interested now," he said.

Denham said state law enforcement is concerned about the production of hemp because it can be difficult to tell hemp from marijuana when it is growing.

The study would address ways to differentiate between the two plants, and the Kentucky State Police would have a lot of input into the study, Denham said.

Kentucky State Police Commissioner Isham Banks told the committee law enforcement would not object to academic research of hemp.

The bill's passage through the Senate would also allow for the appointment of an Industrial Hemp Commission to oversee research in cooperation with the Council on Secondary Education, which will select institutions for participation.

Steve Black and Tina Wagoner of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Association spoke at the College of Agriculture and Forestry in Lexington.

Wagoner won seventh place in persuasion and sixth place in informative speaking.

Rachel Adams and Laurel Taylor also participated in the tournament.

The team's next tournament will be Novice Nationals this week in Utah.

STALLS, from front

"I don't really care because you kind of get used to the way it is," Sammons said. "But I like the idea of having stalls better."

Whose Hall resident Justin Beck was curious on why they are installing them now.

"Having your privacy is a good thing, but the showers have been like this all year. I've kind of adjusted to them being open."

Plank said the dorms have never had stalls and the current shower systems are as old as the buildings.

McKay said the Physical Plant has been trying to upgrade for quite some time and the project became possible this year.

Plank said the shower stall project will cost about \$23,000.

He said the Physical Plant is allotted \$300,000 per year for upgrades in residence halls.

Plank said this money is also used for such things as the purchase of new furniture for the rooms, which Alumni Tower received last summer, and Carmichael Hall will receive this summer.

Beck and other students expressed concerns about bad fixtures in some hall bathrooms.

Plank said if students have any maintenance problems they should report them to their hall director so a work order can be written up.

SGA, from front

into a problem when the server ran out of disk space because of a log file but the problem took just 30 minutes to fix because the campus used a stand-by server.

There were no problems with elections trying to tamper with the election turnout at EKV, Clark said.

Online voting should be available to MSU students for the preliminary SGA elections in April.

Read
The
Trail Blazer!

Each university that participates in the research program must obtain permits from the U. S. Drug Enforcement Agency.

The Industrial Hemp Commission would consist of 17 representatives from state government, retailers, wholesalers and farmers.

One of four amendments to the original bill also provides for the participation of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, which will be responsible for promoting and marketing the research program.

According to bill, staff services for the commission would be paid for by the Department of Agriculture.

Denham said universities seeking participation in the research program would first need to have an agricultural department and, once selected, would also be responsible for seeking a part of the funding needed for the project.

Dr. Robert Cowsett, department chair of agricultural sciences at MSU, said the issue of hemp research in Kentucky has been discussed recently at MSU.

Cowsett said the issue was addressed about six years, during Breton Jones's governorship.

Cowsett said he served on a task force appointed by Jones to address industrial hemp production in Kentucky.

In doing research with the task force and on his own, Cowsett said he has found two drawbacks in turning to hemp as a source of legal revenue.

He said he has never heard of any large paper or fiber company which supports the production of industrial hemp.

"It will be an economically viable venture, we will need those kinds of companies to support hemp production," Cowsett said.

"We also need to ask 'why not if they don't support it,' he said.

Cowsett said many paper or fiber companies would also have to change equipment should industrial hemp become a popular product.

Cowsett said another drawback to hemp production involves the plant's relationship to marijuana.

"Some companies believe it's not good publicity to push in favor of anything associated with marijuana," he said.

Cowsett said the agriculture department would have to first propose growing hemp on the campus.

"We would have to know what

we would research because there is no need to find out if it can be grown here - we already know that it can be," he said.

Cowsett said he would be unsure about such a proposal because of the problems associated with hemp production.

"I would definitely be very cautious," he said.

Cowsett said, according to federal law, universities cannot grow hemp because they are public facilities but private individuals can pay fees to grow hemp.

"We may change Kentucky laws, but the federal law has to be consistent," he said.

He said if MSU were to grow industrial hemp for research, the plants would have to be strictly monitored.

According to the bill, universities participating in the study are required to notify the KSP headquarters and local law enforcement agencies of the size, duration and location of all industrial hemp plots.

The bill is yet to be discussed on the house floor.

Two killed in school shooting

By Nik Mullins, Jessica Zisko & Sunny Sea God

The Daily Aztec (San Diego State U.)

SAN DIEGO - A 15-year-old ninth-grader opened fire at Santana High School in San Diego, Calif., Monday morning, killing two students and wounding 13 others.

Fourteen-year-old Bryan Zacher and 17-year-old Randy Gordon are dead.

Eleven other students were shot, including Scott Marshall, Travis Gallegos, Melissa McNelly, Trevor Edwards, Ray Serrano, Heather Cruz, Barry Gibson, James Jackson, Tobias Salladay, Mathew Heier and Carla Leyva.

Another injured was school security guard Peter Ruiz. Tim Estes, a 29-year-old student teacher, was also shot.

As of Monday night, five of the victims had been released and the remaining eight were expected to recover.

The suspect, who has been identified as Charles Andrew Williams, was taken into custody almost immediately. Williams is expected to be arraigned Wednesday on charges of murder, assault with a deadly weapon and gun possession. San Diego District Attorney Paul Pfingst said he will be charged as an adult.

The attack happened a little before 9:20 a.m., when Williams came out of a boys' restroom and began firing at 22-caliber revolver at other students. San Diego County Sheriff Bill Kolender said. Two victims were shot in the restroom.

Kolender said in a press conference that the boy released at least once. The motive for the shooting is unknown.

Kolender said the 911 call came in at around 9:20 a.m. First on the scene was off-duty San Diego police Officer Robert Clark, who was arriving at Santana High School to enroll his child for next fall. As he walked up to the campus, he heard that there had been gunfire. He identified himself as an officer and arrived at the boys' restroom where the suspect was, just a few moments before Sheriff's

knocking on the ground with the gun. He ordered the boy to drop the gun and lie down, which he did. The suspect told them he was the only shooter.

More than 1,900 students were evacuated to the Del Taco restaurant in the Santana Village shopping center at the intersection of North Magnolia Avenue and East Boulevard.

Santana senior Andrew Karofsky and a campus supervisor ran into the bathroom when they heard shooting. Karofsky told The Daily Aztec the suspect pointed the gun at the two.

As they ran out, the suspect shot the supervisor in the back, he said.

"I thought 'Was I going to die? What if I do die? What do I do?'" he said.

Karofsky said he recognized the suspect and said he was funny and outgoing.

"He was smiling for some reason," he said. "He seemed happy that he was doing this."

Santana junior John Schandl was in his multimedia and photography class when the incident occurred. He photographed the incident and another student videotaped it.

"On the videotape, I believe we have the shooter shooting his weapon and we also have him being apprehended and taken away and the victims being wheeled away," he said. "It was chaos. Everyone was screaming."

The videotape has been confiscated by authorities for evidence.

Santana freshman Shannon Dunsore said he saw the suspect and never thought he would ever do anything like what happened Monday. She was in the girls' bathroom when the incident occurred.

"I walked out and saw everybody lying on the ground," she said.

"People were crawling to their classrooms. It was terrible."

A friend of Williams told KGTV Channel 10 that the suspect had talked about the shooting a few days before, joking and squirting them with a water pistol filled with urine. He didn't think Williams was serious, he said, and didn't want to get him into trouble.

"I do regret that I didn't do something

"If someone did die over there and stuff, that's going to be haunting me for a long time, that's going to be with me for a long time. It just hurts because I could have maybe done something about it."

The number of dead and wounded is the largest in a school shooting since the Columbine shooting in Colorado nearly two years ago.

By noon Monday, counseling for affected students, staff and parents had been arranged at the Sunrise Church on Magnolia Avenue in San Diego.

Pfingst said the boy will be arraigned as an adult at the Juvenile Court House.

"We are all saddened by what has taken place," Kolender told reporters. "It's a real tragedy. We never thought it could happen here. It has and we have to deal with it."

Santana High School was closed Tuesday.

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EDITORIALS

Teaching tolerance might help curb youth violence

Two more of America's children were killed Monday in a school shooting that occurred at Santana High School in Santa, Calif.

The shooting not only claimed two lives and injured many others but it again brings to the forefront of the American mind many questions about youth violence over the past few years.

Debate spawned by such tragedies has produced many theories and explanations behind the troubled minds of the youngsters who pull the triggers. Video games, music, violence in movies and in other forms of the media have all been blamed for the actions of young killers.

Some blame bad parenting as the reason children strike out at other children. This seems just as likely as any other scenario. But bad parenting is not as much at fault as a careless society that doesn't practice what it loves to preach.

Which poses the question, what is America teaching its children about how to treat other individuals?

People ridicule others all of the time yet those same people are quick to spout out the adage, "Do unto others as you would have done unto you."

But most people do not take into account the direct affect their words and actions may have on children.

School acquaintances of Charles Andrew Williams, the suspected shooter at Santana High School, described Williams as a skinny underdog who was frequently mocked as a nerd.

After adolescence, most people learn there is nothing wrong with being skinny or being a nerd. But for Williams and two dead children, after adolescence is too late.

It is the responsibility of parents, teachers and friends to teach America's children tolerance about the differences and individualities of other people.

Adults know how difficult the teen years can be. Bodies and minds not yet fully developed are often the cause for taunting and teasing, as are being quiet and shy or creative and intelligent.

Individuality, diversity and personal freedom are what many people claim are the greatest assets of being an American.

Yet our children, and many adults, mock individuality and possibly push young victims to strike back in a violent manner. Children must be taught to celebrate the differences between people, not make fun of them.

Well-known children's author Patricia Polacco recently told a group of elementary school children a story about one of her high school friends who was mercilessly taunted because he had a high-pitched voice.

Her friend stopped talking as himself and began speaking through a paper bag puppet on his hand, which was cause for even more teasing, yet was somehow endurable for her friend.

Polacco's friend was Frank Oz, co-creator of the Muppets and the voice of Yoda from Star Wars.

It is sad that we have fostered a society where children have stopped finding ways to use their differences to help others and now can find absolute only in hurting them.

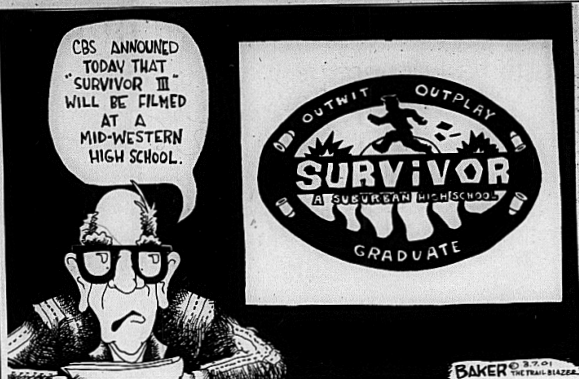
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Commentary

Reporters justified in doing their job

BY EMILY B. MOSES
OPINION EDITOR

In the previous two issues, *The Trail Blazer* reported on an incident involving a resident advisor accused of entering a female student's dorm room unannounced and of sending her sexually harassing emails.

Newspaper staff reporters have received letters and several ridiculous and sometimes obscene phone calls about the stories, claiming the stories were unfounded, biased and full of lies.

But what is unfounded is criticism against people who are legitimately doing their jobs and doing them well.

Journalists are frequently accused of embellishing stories and even making up information to sensationalize their stories. That is not the practice at this newspaper, nor was it the case with these stories.

Good journalists, like the ones at *The Trail Blazer*, like to use a little tool called information to let readers know where that information — especially accusatory information — comes from, and to prevent being unjustly accused of making up stories and information.

Attribution is naming the source that provided specific information

for a story.

For example, in the first story about the incident, information was attributed to the student who filed the complaint with campus police against the RA.

The quote was attributed to the person who said it. In last week's article, information was attributed to the official police report and to other university officials reporters talked to.

I would love to take up the rest of this space giving lessons in journalism practices to those who don't understand the laws about freedom of the press and open records laws and the press's responsibility to inform.

But it probably would fall on deaf ears. I suggest those who would like to learn more about legitimate reporting should take a class or volunteer at the newspaper.

Many people questioned why this incident was considered newsworthy. They say it only served to smudge the reputation of the resident advisor in question.

I cannot say whether the RA's reputation has or will be damaged. However, he was given every opportunity, even begged, to tell his side

of the story and he repeatedly refused to do so. Several of his friends and associates contacted by *The Trail Blazer* also refused to comment on the incident.

The stories were newsworthy because a student filed a complaint and police reports were filed about the incident, making it a matter of public record.

Under the Michael Minger Act, postsecondary education institutions are required to maintain a daily log recording information on all crimes that occur on campus and to make the log immediately available to the public inspection.

The law also specifically states that institutions must report policies and statistics related to campus safety and security.

That's the law. And it was instituted to protect all students.

The incident written about in these stories raised concerns about student safety from intrusion and harassing emails.

How many people living on campus feel safe knowing an RA might walk into their room in the dead of night unannounced? Not me.

This occurrence was and is cause for comment and criticism. The

campus community has a right to know what happened in this case because the safety of a student was in question.

We would all agree it is unpleasant to be the focus of a negative news story. That is why we should always use good judgment.

Some students seem to be of the opinion that *The Trail Blazer* should not have done the story because the young man in question was an RA, member of SGA and a Greek.

The stories would have been investigated and reported on the same manner no matter who was involved — be it an SGA member, a basketball player, a *Trail Blazer* staff member or any other student on this campus.

The Trail Blazer staff feel safety is important. We also feel when safety is at stake, everyone has the right to know.

I can only hope these words are not misconstrued by readers as a defense. They are intended only as an explanation for those who do not understand the responsibilities of newspaper reporters.

Trail Blazer staff members neither need nor offer an excuse for doing their job.

Letters to the Editor

Students call Trail Blazer "tabloid trash"

As active members of the community and, we want to express our concern and utter disgust

in the recent slander against Will Thornton. We were under the impression that the *Trail Blazer* was a respectable campus newspaper which only publishes factual information that affects the entire student body. Last Wednesday's article about Will Thornton clearly proved our belief to be incorrect due to the false accusations that were based on

gossip and were definitely not researched properly. Before writing and publishing an article concerning a student, it is the newspaper's responsibility to be certain that the so-called facts they obtained are the whole truth. By not doing this, it jeopardizes student's reputation and the organizations to which the student belongs. Not only was Will's

reputation tarnished by your tabloid trash, but you also earned the reputation of a disreputable, unreliable source of future campus information.

Jen Barth
Jen Mack
Mays Hall

CAMPUS COMMENT

Do you think there is a solution to ending youth violence in America?



Lisa Henley
Freshman
Art/Communications
"No, because teenagers like to take the easy way out. It relieves stress the quickest."



Kyle Conley
Freshman
Undecided
"There isn't a solution anytime soon. It has to be over a long period of time. Hire more police officers or pass a bill."



Amanda Howard
Junior
Elementary Education
"In schools they need to stop the competition among the students and instead need to focus on issues that are not related to popularity."



Jaclyn Morrison
Senior
Business Administration
"Teachers need to get on a personal level with students and families in order, to determine where a child's behavior is changing."



Megan Caudill
Senior
Elementary Education
"In the home and at school, youth needs to be treated as people. Teachers need to recognize them more than just a body in the classroom."

CAMPUS LIFE

PAGE 4

Spring breaks are planned across the U.S.

Students will engage in various activities for spring break 2001

BY DEANNA LEE
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

College students may disagree on a variety of subjects, but most agree spring break is the most popular week of the spring semester.

Although some students look forward to fun in the sun, others seek employment and volunteer opportunities for spring break. And others seek their own beds in a house with real food.

John Beckham, a junior engineering major, says he is heading home to Cincinnati, Ohio, for a week of relaxation and hanging out with friends.

"Most of my friends here are from Louisville, so I will probably be spending a lot of time there too," Beckham says.

Beckham says besides spending time with family and friends, he will be doing "absolutely nothing" during spring break.

Freshman business management major Alonzo Prater says he is heading home to Mt. Sterling where he will be working during spring break.

"I'll probably party a little, and sleep a lot," Prater says.

Megan Cottongim, a sophomore university studies major, says she is heading south towards the Gulf of Mexico to spend a week in Port Richey, Fla. with some friends.

"We don't have any definite plans for when we get there, but we're just looking forward to spending time by the beach and playing some miniature golf," Cottongim says.

While Cottongim is heading south, her sister, Tabitha Cottongim, is heading east to Philadelphia for a missions trip with the Baptist Student Union (BSU).

"We will be doing construction work there, and some sight-seeing

I'm sure," Cottongim says.

Cottongim says she will be participating in a project in which she and other volunteers will help build a church throughout their week-long stay in Philadelphia.

Junior elementary education major Kathy Richie says she will also be doing missions work with the BSU during spring break, but will be working in East St. Louis, Mo.

Richie says she will be working at a children's recreational facility where she will help tutor and play games with the children there.

Working at a soup kitchen and participating in minor construction, and cleaning, for the facility are also included in Richie's agenda for spring break.

Jeremy Booher, a freshman communications major, says he is preparing for a week of hard-core fun with a few friends in Panama



Photo by Danielle Frye

Senior accounting major Michelle Porter prepares to tan at Electric Beach on Main Street. Porter says she visits the tanning bed about three times a week and will be vacationing in Miami, Fla., for spring break this year.

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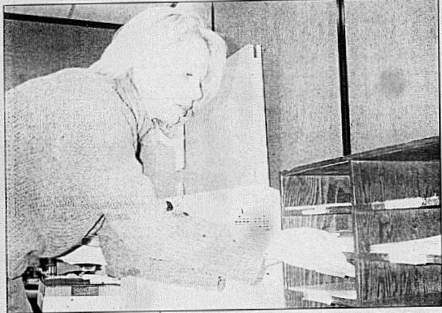


Photo by Deanna Lee

Senior communications major Ashley Frazier works in the Office of Admissions on campus in hopes of getting some extra cash for spring break. Frazier says she plans to drive close to six hours back home to Gettysburg, Pa., to spend time with her parents for spring break.



Photo by Deanna Lee

Freshman business management majors Edward Hart and Alonzo Prater head toward ADUC in the snow Monday. As usual, the warm, sunny weather last week was replaced by the cold, gloomy weather this week, just before spring break.

Got a tip for the campus life pages?

Call The Trail Blazer
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We would like to thank all those who came to the ADUC Sunday Brunch. Please note that this past Sunday marked the last day of the brunch. Thanks for your support!

Sincerely,



Students should be aware of spring break scams

Cautious planning and wise spending habits should be considered by students for break

BY GARY TACKETT
STAFF WRITER

Once again it is that time of year when most college students regress back into the missing link.

Spring break is one of the most holy to a stressed out student and it usually means a road trip to some exotic beach.

But before students start their de-evolution into party animals, they should take a look at the trips they are planning for spring break. Over the past several years there have been thousands of students ripped off during spring break.

Fly-by-night operations, promising airfare and luxurious hotels for a small cost, and sometimes delivering nothing, have become common.

These scam-artists, however, have now run into a road-block coming in the form of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

The FTC has teamed with law-enforcement agencies to come up with Operation Trip Trap.

Operation Trip Trap was made to target companies misrepresenting themselves and misrepresenting travel packages to people.

In its first year, Trip Trap filed lawsuits against dozens of corporations, including American International Travel Services, Inc., First Impressions, Inc., All Around Travel Club, Inc. and Resort World, which had to pay \$75,000 in consumer redress and a \$175,000 bond before re-entering the travel service business.

The FTC has also developed tips, helping consumers to spot any scams.

First, the FTC warns students to be cautious of bargain vacations on postcards and flyers. There are usu-

ally hidden charges that students don't often look at, according to the FTC.

The FTC also advises students to stay away from high-pressure sales pitches.

Adopting a "no surprise" travel policy is a good idea, according to the FTC. A traveler should get the total cost of the trip and everything it includes in writing.

The FTC also encourages spring-breakers to only give their financial information to trusted companies and never trust couriers to pick up cash.

Paying by credit card give more protection to the consumer, according to the FTC.

According to the FTC, if a check is the only means of payment, make sure it is made payable to an escrow account.

Since most spring break flights are public charters, the federal law requires all charter companies use escrow accounts.

The FTC warns students to also, look at the charter they are using for "spring break."

Public charters have different rules than other travel businesses. A charter is not responsible for providing an alternative means of transportation or a refund in case of mechanical problems, according to the FTC.

However, a consumer has the right to cancel a charter package

with no penalties if there is a major change made to a travel package, such as a price increase of more than 10 percent or departure from another city or a hotel substitution.

Lucy Hileman, certified travel counselor and president of Berkshire Travel in Newboundland, N.J., says students need to use common sense when booking spring break trips.

Hileman says travelers should ask for names of satisfied customers and read the fine print for added costs.

Hileman says students need to do their homework when it comes to choosing a charter.

For assistance, consumers can contact their local Better Business Bureau for a reliability report on any business.

Study abroad offers lifetime experience

BY CAMI COOPER
STAFF WRITER

According to a recent USA Today article, a record 113,959 students traveled abroad for credit from 1997 to 1998.

MSU students were no exception.

"I had an absolute blast," says senior Sarah Hoffman, who studied in London from July 8 until Aug. 9 in 1999.

Hoffman says she plans to return to London this summer.

"I took a literature class the first time," Hoffman says, "but the program offers all sorts of classes."

Mary Jo Netherton, associate professor of French, says, "The Kentucky Institute for International Studies offers sixteen summer programs in Europe, Latin America, and Asia."

"The length of the summer programs varies from site to site, but most are five weeks in length," says Netherton; who has frequently taught classes with KIIIS.

The courses are all designed to make the maximum use of the site where they are offered," Netherton says.

Senior history major Patty Sims says she has been to London twice and Australia once with KIIIS.

Sims says she plans to take a fourth trip this summer, one to London again.

"This past summer I took a history course on Churchill and learned so much about World War II."

"We tried to Americanize everything, but this course made me realize just what Britain did in the war," Sims says.

"I had a geography class during one of my London trips, and it helped me to see that people are really not that different in any country," Sims says.

Hoffman agrees the cultural learning experience is the chance of a lifetime.

"I learned a lot outside the classroom," Hoffman says.

"I got different views of different cultures than by just being a simple tourist. I got to hang out with the locals."

For foreign language students, studying abroad has its own "big payoff," Netherton says, because students are going to a country where that language is spoken.

"When surrounded by their target language, students develop more finely tuned listening comprehension skills. They must speak the language in order to take care of their needs."

"Consequently, they gain valuable practice with native speakers and dramatically increase their speaking skills," Netherton says.

Netherton says foreign language students can also attend concerts and operas, visit museums, and browse in book and music stores, all of which enhance their language skills.

"Students can see films in the target language, without subtitles," says Netherton.

"They can go to theatrical performances to see plays they have studied come to life on stage," Netherton says.

New to MSU this year is a course on politics that includes a trip to Mexico as part of the class.

Dr. Linda Stevenson, professor of government, will be teaching *Politics in Transition* this summer.

"Students need not have studied any Spanish to go on the trip, as all visits will be translated and lectures will be in English."

Trained professionals are readily available for any student suffering from stress and/or depression.

The UCC offers one staff psychologist, two counselors, one which deals primarily with alcohol and drug-related problems, and a graduate intern.

The UCC is located in Allie Young Hall, room 112. Students are advised to make an appointment unless the situation is an emergency.

The office is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"For those who have some Spanish, of course this is a great opportunity to use it and pick up some more on the way," Stevenson says.

"Given the fact that Mexico and the U.S. now have two new 'cowboy' presidents in office, I believe it will be an interesting time to go, as we will see first-hand how a relationship is unfolding between them," Stevenson says.

"And Kentucky's imports to Mexico have more than doubled in the past five years, as has the Mexican population that migrates to the Bluegrass state," Stevenson says.

Netherton says the program fee includes round trip air-fare, two meals a day, and housing costs.

Although she finances her own trip, Hoffman says aid and loans are easy to obtain for trips.

"The greater portion of those who went with me took out a loan or had some other kind of help," Hoffman says.

Sims says she used loans and financial aid for all of her trips. She says it is the same to get help as any other student loans.

Netherton says, "All KIIIS study abroad programs provide excellent opportunities to meet interesting people, visit historical monuments, and to make international friends."

For more information on the Mexico trip, e-mail Dr. Stevenson at l Stevenson@msu.edu.

For more information on abroad courses offered at MSU, Janet Gross can be reached at 3-5173.



Photo by Amber Holt

Sophomore Brandon Howard and freshman Lani Daniels enjoy a dance at the Baptist Student Union Formal Friday night in Burton Drill Room.

Students cope with depression

Social factors and academics add to stress and depression

BY SONYA SCARLATO
STAFF WRITER

According to reports from the Program of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), depression is a serious problem among college students today.

Reports from the Depression Awareness, Recognition, and Treatment Program reveal there are many contributing factors to stress and depression among college students.

Along with everyday pressures students face, there are things such as being exposed to new people and

new temptations which can often cause additional stress.

Academic demands from parents and instructors may also be stress-causing agents.

Wanting to fit in with the crowd or be socially accepted can also contribute to the amount of stress some students carry on a day-to-day basis.

There are several types of depression, each having different symptoms and possibly lasting for shorter or longer periods of time.

Major depression may include sadness, decreased energy, appetite and weight disturbances, thoughts of suicide and maybe even attempts of suicide, according to NIMH.

Students at Morehead State University have the University Center Counseling Center (UCC) to help them diagnose their levels of stress or depression.

This service is free to all regis-

tered students at MSU.

The services include individual and group counseling, as well as psychotherapy to students, staff and faculty. Other services include consultation, outreach, prevention, and education.

Trained professionals are readily available for any student suffering from stress and/or depression.

The UCC offers one staff psychologist, two counselors, one which deals primarily with alcohol and drug-related problems, and a graduate intern.

The UCC is located in Allie Young Hall, room 112. Students are advised to make an appointment unless the situation is an emergency.

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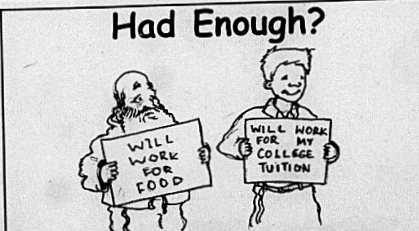
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ENTERTAINMENT

Insiders say Billboard restricts music industry

BY GARY TACKETT
STAFF WRITER
MATT ALLEY
EDITOR

"Music is a major influence on today's society, especially college students. It influences fashion, attitudes and can even influence national events. But what influences the music people hear?"

Some of the major influences on the music heard on radio and television are the Weekly Top Forty, Billboard Top Forty and award shows like the recent Grammys.

David Carpenter, owner of Main Street Music located on E. Main Street in Morehead, says the Billboard's Top Forty and others like it has a direct effect on what people hear.

Erik Boocock, a sales associate at Main Street Music, says, "They control what we hear and listen to. They're the gatekeepers."

There are several different ways the Top Forty charts are compiled.

The Weekly Top Forty, with Ross Rick Dees, features the most frequently aired songs on the radio. Another system used in rating albums is Sound Scan. This computer program scans a code each time a CD is purchased. The computer then sends a message to main database that compiles sales and

produces a list of the most bought records.

Another way of rating CD's is by the number sold to retailers. A musician or band only has to sell records to the retailers in order for an album to go "gold" or "platinum," whether consumers buy the album or not.

Carpenter says the Top Forty and Billboard Magazine is accurate with the sales of Main Street Music's. However, he says it is not as precise as larger chain stores such as Wal-Mart.

"In a small college town, like Morehead, there is a lot more diversity when it comes to music-lovers," Carpenter says.

Not everyone uses the Top Forty as a reference for buying music. John Hamilton, a sophomore geology major, says he usually buys what he hears on the radio or sees on MTV.

"I never look at the music charts," Hamilton says.

Carpenter and Boocock agree the Top Forty the music listeners see are not entirely influenced by music sales and air play. Boocock says the record industry decides who gets played and what songs get heard.

"The record industry pushes who's going to get played on the

radio," Boocock says.

Carpenter says, "Shaggy didn't become popular because he is good, he became popular because the record company wanted him to be popular."

One highly publicized instance of music company influence involved artist Leann Rimes.

"They control what we hear and listen to. They are the gatekeepers."
—Erik Boocock
Main Street Music

Rimes reported her record label forced her to sing on a record that she did not want to make because it conflicted with her beliefs.

Although the record company forced Rimes, through contract agreements, to put out the record, she sent a message to her fans saying she didn't want them to purchase the CD.

Award shows, like the Grammys, have little to do with record sales as well says Carpenter. The multi-Grammy winning Steely

Den CD, Two Against Nature, which also took the Album of the Year award, has only sold a handful of copies at Main Street Music.

The Grammys judge more on the content of album rather than the retail units sold Carpenter says.

Some CD's that are selling well at Carpenter's store include the new album by the Dave Matthews Band, the Everyday, the O' Brother Where Art Thou soundtrack and anything resembling the rap rock music of Kid Rock and Limp Bizkit.

Carpenter says rap music is a major trend at the moment. The rock/rap music has broken down stereotypes and now, Carpenter says, everyone is buying rap artists like Scarface and Dr. Dre.

"The music industry goes through cycles," Carpenter says, "but I thought the boy band trend would be over by now though."

Although the charts and the Top Forty have some influence on what radio listeners hear, the record company, ultimately decides what is the trend and what was yesterday's news.

Americana Music Underground Editor Mark Jacobson says Billboard is a biased form of music sales tracking.

"Billboard is influenced by large

music companies who flood the market with advertising dollars, which isn't fair to artists and labels who don't have that kind of green to throw around. If listeners don't know about new LP's or singles, they won't buy them," says Jacobson.

Jacobson says he and many of his fellow music journalists follow called Gavin because it complicates Sound Scan and other cataloging systems for accurate music sales.

Jacobson says industry insiders have learned Billboard will use different tactics to keep the pop charts free from smaller independent labels who don't pay for radio air

time.

"Billboard doesn't want anyone in its countdowns, unless its investors want them to be there. Sometimes artists get shafted by being slumped with a totally ridiculous label, like Lucinda Williams being called adult-contemporary-folk in order to keep the artist off the popular chart listing. Williams isn't folk, she's rock and she sold 250,000 CD's but never ended up on the top 100 album sales," says Jacobson.

Jacobson says it doesn't matter what Billboard lists because it still up to the listener to decide what is good music to them.

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Eat at Whitey's redefines Everlast from hip-hop act to genre-defying artist

BY GARY TACKETT
STAFF WRITER

Not since the first Woodstock in 1969, has there been a production that blends as many styles as Everlast's recent release, *Eat at Whitey's*.

The album is a collage of music with several different styles varying from folk, rock, hip-hop and country with a big dose of the blues thrown in for measure.

Everlast's evolution from hip-hop rapper to a rounded musician and songwriter is showcased in songs like "I Can't Move" and "Whitey." The hip-hop beats given off a definitive sound that the once-House of Pain member has pioneered.

Everlast, alias Whitey Ford, continues to blur racial segregation with his music. He does this with the controversial "Black Jesus." In this blues, hip-hop mix, Whitey Ford sings phrases like "black



Graphic by Laura Cuccin

Everlast attempts to blur racial segregation through his music.

Jesus," "white devil" and "redneck cracker" to bridge the gaps between the musical stereotypes.

The heart attack that nearly took the life of Everlast left him more focused and with a raspy, blues voice that could never be described with only words.

And what blues CD would be complete without a love-gone-bad track. In "Black Coffee," Everlast uses his vocals to his full potential by whaling out lyrics the great B.B. King would be envious of.

Eat at Whitey's is loaded with guest appearances from some of today's and yesterday's hottest artists. Some contributors include rapper Korpuz and the spiritual, Carlos Santana, who adds screaming guitar riffs in the melodic

"Babylon Felling."

Whitey Ford's follow-up album is an extension of his personal and is shown throughout *Eat at Whitey's*. It is a trip that gets better every time it's played.

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Basketball will miss Crum's class, poise



BY JENNIFER BROWN
SPORTS COLUMNIST
Denny Crum, head basketball coach for the University of Louisville, retired Friday, on his 64th birthday, after 30 years of leading the Cardinal program.

The announcement confirmed speculation that began at midseason that this season would be Crum's last year.

This is a sad occasion for basketball fans.

It is even more upsetting that Crum's career ended on such a controversial note.

There was reportedly a major battle between Crum and U of L Athletic Director Tom Jurich. Crum decided to step down, accepting a huge financial package from the university.

The university will pay Crum \$7 million over the next 15 years, officials said Friday. He will become a consultant and will make about \$38,000 a year for 15 years as an assistant for development to University President John Shumaker. That is in addition to \$2 million he will receive as part of the termination clause in his contract.

Crum leaves coaching as one of the top 15 all-time winners, with 674 victories. He coached the Final Four six times. Only John Wooden, Dean Smith and Mike Krzyzewski have made more often. Crum also won 42 NCAA Tournament games. College commentator Al McGuire labeled Crum "Cool Hand Luke." McGuire says he watched Crum and his teams throughout the years and never saw the Louisville coach "lose his cool" in a pressure situation, which could have meant the difference between winning and losing.

Crum was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on May 9, 1994.

Crum's last game with the Cardinals was Saturday against Memphis. He ended the season with a record of 12-18. Crum blamed this year's struggles on ineptness.

As much as I wanted to see Crum exit gracefully in a storybook ending, it was his time to go.

Great coaches must face the same pressures and challenges that all others face, no matter how great they are, or have been.

The disappointment of Crum's last few years will fade quickly, and he will be left only with feelings of awe and amazement of a coach who brought the best to the game.

I will remember a coach who built a program from the ground up and was a really tough competitor.

I will remember a coach who challenged his teams so they would be prepared to win a national championship in March.

I will remember a coach who was an excellent model for other coaches, who have learned from him over the last three decades.

Crum was a legend. His legacy and what he brought to the game of basketball will live on.

Got a tip for the sports page? Call The Trail Blazer at 783-2697.

Baseball team splits pair with WSU

Junior hurler Eddy Bushelman throws a one-hitter

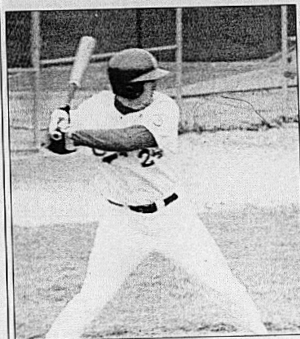


Photo by Jay Howard

Junior Eagle designated hitter Bubba Lavender prepares to swing the bat in MSU's game Saturday against Wright State. Lavender hit a two-run home in the bottom of the ninth inning in the nightcap to tie the game at 2. The Eagles lost in the extra inning, 8-2.

BY JENNIFER BROWN
SPORTS EDITOR

The Morehead State baseball Eagles (6-3) split a twinbill Saturday with Wright State University at Allen Field in Morehead.

In the opener, the game remained scoreless through the first two innings.

In the bottom of the third, MSU put four runs on the scoreboard with Kevin bats by sophomore third baseman James Matuszek and junior first baseman Will Renaker.

Matuszek, honored to left field, putting three across the plate, and Renaker's solo shot went over the right center field fence.

In the bottom of the fourth inning, Matuszek hit his second homer of the game, sending the ball

over the left field fence to score three runs and give the Eagles the 7-0 advantage.

MSU went on to score two runs in the fifth inning to take the 9-0 lead.

Junior Eagle right hander Eddy Bushelman went the distance on the mound, giving up only one hit. That one hit came from first baseman Lance Links, on a 1-2 count, when he sent a solo shot over the right center field fence.

"Eddy did such a great job," MSU Head Coach John Jarnigan said. "I was sorry he didn't pitch a no-hitter, but he is trying to do things the right way. He is paying good attention on how to pitch to guys. I think that has made a major impact."

But Wright State could not put

any more runs over the plate as the Eagles took the 9-1 victory.

Bushelman earned his second win of the season on the mound for MSU, giving up only one hit and striking out seven batters.

Matuszek was 2-4 at the plate for the Eagles, with two home runs and six RBI, senior second baseman Jimmy Mains was 2-3, and Renaker was 2-4 with a home run.

Wright State dominated the nightcap, taking the 8-2 victory in eight innings.

The game was scoreless until the top of the fourth inning, when Links ripped a single to center field to score third baseman Jake Hart and put Wright State on top 1-0.

In the top of the sixth inning, Wright State scored the second run of the game when catcher Nick Shields hit a sacrifice fly to right field to score second baseman Tom Bohr.

The Eagles tied the game at two in the bottom of the seventh inning when junior designated hitter Bubba Lavender hit a two-run shot over the right center field fence to score pinch hitter Andy Foster.

"(Lavender's home run) was great ammunition for us," Jarnigan said. "A lot of our guys can hit it out of the ball park, and that is good because we don't have to rely on just one guy."

But in the extra inning, Wright State scored six runs on four hits to take the 8-2 lead.

The Eagles were unable to score in the extra inning, giving Wright State the victory.

Junior right hander Rick Lowe threw five innings on the mound for the Eagles, and sophomore left hander Luke Luckwood picked up the loss for MSU.

"We swung the bats really well, and Rick (Lowe) did a nice job on the mound," Jarnigan said. "We just have to start pitching better. We walked a lot of guys and that hurt us in the long run."

Four MSU pitchers walked 10 Wright State batters in the second game.

Aaron Braden went the distance

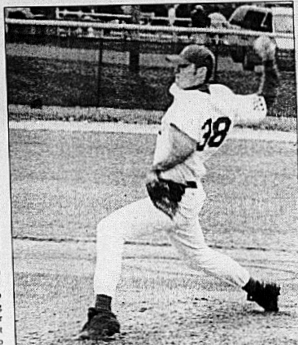


Photo by Jay Howard

Junior Eagle hurler Eddy Bushelman throws a pitch to an opponent in the Eagle's 9-1 win Saturday over Wright State. Bushelman gave up only one hit in seven innings on the mound for MSU.

on the mound for Wright State, giving up six hits and striking out six MSU batters.

Sophomore Eagle catcher Nate Lowe, freshman left fielder Jon Childs and sophomore designated hitter Cary Page each went 1-3 at the plate with a homer and two RBI.

The single game scheduled for Saturday was rained out.

The Eagles played in Knoxville, Tenn. last night against the University of Tennessee. They will play in Johnson City, Tenn. tonight, facing East Tennessee State University.

MSU will host IUPUI Friday

and Saturday, and Youngstown State Friday and Sunday.

"It should be interesting to see what happens this weekend because we play five games," Jarnigan said. "But our guys are confident and they can score a lot of runs. We have been able to play a lot of people who don't usually get to play and I think that has been good for our club."

During the spring break vacation, the Eagles will host Marshall University March 14. The team will travel to Cape Girardeau, Mo. to face Southeast Missouri State University in a double-header March 17 and a single game March 18.

Lady Eagles fall in tourney

BY JENNIFER BROWN
SPORTS EDITOR

The Morehead State Lady Eagle basketball team lost Friday to Austin Peay State University in the second round of the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament in Nashville, Tenn.

The Lady Eagles (seventh seed) defeated Eastern Kentucky University (second seed) 92-89 Feb. 27 in Richmond, Ky. in the first round of the tournament.

MSU trailed the Lady Colonels 45-40 at the intermission.

The Lady Eagles were down nine, 55-46, with 15:58 left to play.

With 5:57 remaining, junior guard Amy Spear connected on a three-pointer to cut the Lady Colonels' lead to the game, 56-53.

Sophomore guard Traceve Turner nailed a try with 2:12 left in the game to give the Lady Eagles their first lead of the game, 56-53.

After four lead changes, freshman forward Kandi Brown sank six consecutive free throws to give the Lady Eagles the victory and advanced them to the semifinals for the first time in four years.

All five Lady Eagle starters reached double figures in the win.

Junior center Tia Gales shot 90 percent from the field and finished with a team-high 19 points. It was Gales' eighth double-double of the season with 11 boards.

Turner followed with 15 points, seven boards and four assists. Brown registered 14 points, freshman forward Jodi Sizemore tallied 12 points and eight boards, and 12 points and eight boards.

Spear added 10 points and eight assists.

Lady Colonel forward Charlotte Sizemore led EKV with 21 points,

and center Candice Finley and guard Teresa McNair each tallied 18 points, respectively.

The Lady Eagles shot 34-of-70 shots (48.6 percent) from the floor, while the Lady Colonels connected on 33-of-76 (43.4 percent).

EKV ended the season with a 22-6 overall record.

The Lady Eagles traveled to Nashville, Tenn. Friday for the semifinals of the tournament and tied to Austin Peay State University 71-63.

APSU only led by one at the half, 37-36.

With 13:15 remaining in the game, APSU took a 49-43 lead on a basket by Felicia Dowell.

APSU took an eight point advantage with 10:33 left to play when forward Brooke Armstrong cannot a try to give Austin Peay the 53-45 lead.

APSU took an eight point advantage with 10:33 left to play when forward Brooke Armstrong cannot a try to give Austin Peay the 53-45 lead.

But Armstrong went on to make four consecutive free throws to give Austin Peay the 71-63 victory.

Sizemore led the Lady Eagles with 20 points and five boards and Turner registered 16 points, grabbed five boards, and handed out four assists.

Armistead scored 26 points for Austin Peay and guard Paige Smith added 13.

The Lady Eagles connected on 26-of-54 (48.1 percent) from the floor, while Austin Peay made 23-of-57 (40.4 percent).

Austin Peay made 18-of-23 (78.3 percent) from behind the line, and MSU made 9-of-15 (60 per-

cent).

APSU went on to beat Tennessee Tech, 65-61 in the finals, giving them a berth to the NCAA Tournament.

The two teams met in the finals last year, with TTU walking away with the 89-80 win.

Turner was named to the All-Tournament team for MSU.

Turner and Gales earned honorable mention honors on the All-OVC team. Brown and Sizemore were named to the All-Freshman team.

The Lady Eagles finished their season with a 10-19 record.

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